

AGREEMENT

Between

DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

AND

DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP BUS DRIVERS ASSOCIATION

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ARTICLE I
RECOGNITION

A. The Deptford Township Board of Education, Deptford Township, Gloucester County, hereafter known as the Board, hereby recognizes the Deptford Township Bus Drivers' Association, hereafter known as the Association, as the exclusive representative for collective negotiation concerning the terms and conditions of employment for personnel under contract and employed by the Board of Education and so assigned as bus drivers exclusive of bus maintenance and bus transportation personnel.

B. The Association hereby recognizes the Board as the legal authority elected as representatives of the people and further recognizes the responsibilities of the Board and the Superintendent for the conduct and operation of the school district in compliance with New Jersey Statutes Title 18A.

ARTICLE II
NEGOTIATION PROCEDURE

A. Consistent with Chapter 123 of the Public Laws of 1974, the Board shall not affect any change in policy concerning terms and conditions of employment except those so negotiated and included as part of this Agreement and contained herein.

B. The Board agrees to furnish the Association upon reasonable request, such information as will assist the Association in developing intelligent, feasible and constructive proposals in behalf of the employees, students and school system. This information may include a complete and accurate financial report and tentative budget for the next school year.

C. The Association agrees to furnish the Board and Superintendent upon reasonable request, research information and data, gathered by the Association, that will assist the Board and the Superintendent in the development of sound educational programs.

D. During the term of this Agreement neither party shall be required to negotiate with respect to any matter whether or not covered by this Agreement and whether or not within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time they negotiated or executed this Agreement.

E. This Agreement shall not be modified in whole or in part by the parties except by an instrument in writing duly executed by both parties.

ARTICLE III

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Definitions

1. Grievance is defined as an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of this Agreement.

2. Aggrieved is defined as the employee making the complaint.

3. Days means school attendance days.

B. Time Limits

A grievance shall be processed within the specified time limits. Time limits may be extended by mutual agreement. Any grievance not advanced from one step to the next within the time limits of that step shall be considered dropped.

C. Record Keeping

Documents, communications and records dealing with the processing of a grievance shall be filed in a separate grievance file and shall not be kept in the personnel file of any of the participants.

D. Representation

The aggrieved may be represented at all stages of the grievance procedure by himself or at his option by a representative. When the aggrieved is not represented by the Association, the Association shall have the right to be present as observer. All meetings and hearings under this procedure shall not be conducted in public and shall include only such parties in interest and their representatives and counsel.

E. Procedure

Level I - Step A - Informal

Within ten (10) school days of the time a grievance occurs, the aggrieved shall first discuss this grievance with his immediate supervisor directly with the objective of resolving the matter informally.

Level I - Step B

If the aggrieved person is not satisfied with the disposition of his grievance after informal discussion or if no decision has been rendered within five (5) school days after presentation of the grievance, he/she may file the grievance with his/her immediate supervisor within ten (10) school days of receipt of the supervisor's answer. The grievance shall be stated in writing and signed by the aggrieved.

The "Statement of Grievance" shall name the individual employee or employees involved, shall state the facts giving rise to the grievance, shall identify the alleged infraction of this Agreement, shall state the contention of the employee with respect to the alleged infraction and shall indicate the specific relief sought.

Level II

If the aggrieved is not satisfied with the disposition of his/her grievance at Level I or if no decision has been rendered within five (5) school days after presentation of the grievance, he may within ten (10) school days of the supervisor's answer file the grievance in writing with the Superintendent of Schools. At

the same time a copy of the grievance shall be given to the supervisor involved. The Superintendent or his designee shall give the aggrieved an answer in writing no later than ten (10) school days after receipt of written grievance. The decision may be announced to the parties concerned.

Level III

If the aggrieved is not satisfied with the disposition of his/her grievance at Level II, or if no decision has been rendered within ten (10) school days after presentation of the grievance to the Superintendent, the aggrieved person may within ten (10) school days file the grievance in writing with the Board of Education. The aggrieved person shall be granted a hearing with the Board of Education within ten (10) days of the receipt of the written grievance. The Board shall give the aggrieved person an answer in writing within five (5) school days of the date of the hearing.

Level IV

In the event that the grievance shall not have been disposed of at Level III the aggrieved may within thirty (30) school days after the Board's decision refer the unsettled grievance to advisory arbitration (non-binding).

F. Advisory Arbitration (non-binding)

The Advisory Arbitrator (non-binding) shall be selected within thirty (30) days following the request of either party to the other, under the rules and procedures of the American Arbitration Association.

The Advisory Arbitrator (non-binding) shall be limited solely to making recommendations in cases of alleged violations of the specific article and sections of this Agreement.

The Advisory Arbitrator (non-binding) shall have the authority to confer separately or jointly with the Board, Superintendent, and the Association or to use any other source of information.

The Advisory Arbitrator (non-binding) shall make recommendations for resolution within thirty (30) days. The recommendations shall be submitted to both parties, the Board and the Association. The Board shall render its decision prior to the Advisory Arbitrator's (non-binding) recommendations being made public by either party.

The Advisory Arbitrator's (non-binding) recommendations after twenty (20) days may be made public by either party, the Board or the Association.

G. Costs

The costs and expenses incurred in securing and utilizing the services of the Advisory Arbitrator (non-binding) shall be the shared responsibility of the parties engaging his services.

H. No reprisals shall be taken against any participants by reason of participation.

ARTICLE IV

RIGHTS

A. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict to any employee such rights as he/she may have under New Jersey School law.

B. No employee shall be disciplined without just cause.

C. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny the Board or Superintendent their rights at any time to call a meeting of the supporting staff to present its position in any matter that in its judgment may affect the educational program.

D. The Board reserves to itself sole jurisdiction and authority over matters of policy and retains the right, subject only to the limitations imposed by the language of this Agreement, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (a) to direct employees of the school district, (b) to hire, promote, transfer, assign, and retain employees in positions in the school district, and for just cause, to suspend, to demote, discharge, or take other disciplinary action against employees, (c) to relieve employees from duty because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons, (d) to maintain the efficiency of the school district operations entrusted to them, (e) to determine the methods, means and personnel by which such operations are to be conducted and (f) to take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out the mission of the school district in situations of emergency.

ARTICLE V

PRIVILEGES

A. The Association or its named representative shall be privileged to transact official union business on property at reasonable times, provided that this shall not interfere with or interrupt any individual assignment or the normal operation of the school.

B. The Association or its named representatives shall be privileged to process school building use applications for unit activities.

C. Representatives of the Association and/or N.J.E.A. must, on coming upon the Board's premises, notify the Superintendent and advise of the purpose of the visit. No visitation shall interfere with or interrupt normal school operations.

D. In the event that the Association wishes to use school buildings, requests therefor shall be submitted to the Superintendent forty-eight (48) hours in advance. The request shall not be granted for meetings which are for the purpose of discussing or planning action which would be adverse to the interests of the Board.

1. No such permission is required for use by the Association of the trailer in the bus compound.

E. The Association may request the use of school equipment, including typewriters, calculating machines, mimeographing machines, other duplicating equipment, and all types of audio-visual equipment at reasonable times, when such equipment is not otherwise in use. The Association shall pay for the reasonable cost of all materials

and supplies incident to such use as well as the cost of any repairs made necessary from such use. Such use may not be for the purpose of preparing materials adverse to the interests of the Board.

F. The Association shall have the right to use the inter-school mail facilities and school mail boxes.

ARTICLE VI

SALARY AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

A. Effective July 1, 1981 present permanent employees with permanent runs shall be paid as follows:

1. 1st through 4th year of contracted employment -
\$6.02 per hour.
2. 5th year of contracted employment or above -
\$6.57 per hour.

B. Each driver of Special Education shall receive Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per year extra for transporting exclusively Special Education students to and from school (two ways).

Each driver of Special Education shall receive Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) per year extra for transporting exclusively Special Education students to or from school (one way). Special Education runs will be supplied prior to selection of runs.

C. All permanent employees who are driving summer runs shall receive their regular hourly rate retroactive to July 1, 1981.

D. Medical Insurance -

The Board shall provide at its cost during the life of this Agreement medical insurance coverage for the employee and, if applicable, his/her family as follows:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield with Rider "J" and Major Medical coverage or its equivalent.

E. Washington National -

The Board agrees to pay Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) towards any plan of Washington National Group Income Protection to each

employee who agrees to abide by the requirements for participation as stipulated by the insurance carrier. All insurance coverage is by the approved Board/Association vendor.

ARTICLE VII

SENIORITY

A. A seniority list shall be posted prior to the establishing of the bus run assignments.

B. Seniority shall prevail in the selection of regular assignments.

C. School district seniority is defined as service by appointed employees in the school district in the collective bargaining unit covered by this Agreement.

D. The principles set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 through 11 shall govern reduction in force.

E. In the event of reduction in force, the employees shall retain recall rights for a period not exceeding two (2) years from the date of last employment with the school district.

ARTICLE VIII

WORK CALENDAR - LENGTH OF DAY, WEEK, YEAR

- A. The work calendar shall be set forth by the Board of Education.
- B. The work day shall be the prescribed hours.
- C. Excess of forty (40) hours per week exclusive of lunch-time shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) times the regular rate.
- D. Work Week - The work week shall consist of five (5) working days, Monday through Friday inclusive, when so assigned.
- E. Work Year - The work year shall coincide with the student calendar.
- F. No regularly assigned bus driver shall work less than four (4) hours per day.
- G. A regular bus driver who is called in for duty other than his/her regular assignment will work no less than two (2) hours for this duty.
- H. The work year shall guarantee 190 paid days plus one (1) four (4) hour voluntary session to be used for a Bus Driver Safety Seminar. Only those who attend the Seminar shall be paid.
- I. An employee who is resigning from his or her position shall give the normal two (2) weeks' notice.
- J. Drivers must be employed under contract on or before February 1 of the school year in order to receive credit for a year of driving experience for the following year.

K. Field trips included in the contract to be administered the same as last year (1980-81) except that the forty (40) hour rule shall not apply.

L. Teachers to drive school buses only in an emergency situation. Teachers who drive must have a valid bus driver's license.

M. Employees who are not scheduled to drive their assigned runs because the schools which they serve are not in session shall be entitled to drive the run of a scheduled driver who is absent from work on that day. The selection to cover the run shall be based upon seniority and the employee selected shall be paid his or her appropriate rate.

N. Vacancies which open during the school year shall be posted within five (5) days thereof and employees applying shall be considered in accordance with qualifications and seniority (if all things are equal, seniority shall prevail), subject to the Board's transfer rights.

O. No employee shall be eligible to be assigned to an extracurricular run if he or she has been absent from work on any of the four (4) regularly scheduled work days immediately prior to the date of the run.

ARTICLE IX

ASSIGNMENTS, TRANSFERS AND REASSIGNMENTS

A. Transfer of personnel shall take place at the request of the employee or by the chief administrator when it is in the best interest of the children and the school system.

B. Employee Initiated Transfer - The employee shall submit his/her request for transfer to the Superintendent of Schools in writing by February 28th. This request shall include the placement desired and the reasons for the request.

The Superintendent of Schools shall notify the principals and supervisors concerned with the transfer and they in turn shall interview the employee initiating the request.

After consulting with principals and supervisors concerned, the Superintendent shall notify the employee concerning the decision made.

C. Administration Initiated Transfers - After consultation with the principals and supervisors concerned, the Superintendent shall notify the employee whose transfer is pending. The employee shall be provided the opportunity of discussing the pending transfer and any objections shall be duly considered.

After the completion of the consultation, the Superintendent shall notify the employee as to the decision of the transfer.

D. Fair Employment Procedures -

1. Employees shall not be reduced in compensation without just cause.

2. Non-renewal of non-tenured employees shall not be subject to the grievance procedure and the Board retains all rights

in regard thereto. Such an employee may request reasons in writing for the non-renewal within fifteen (15) days after receiving notice thereof. The reasons shall be supplied within fifteen (15) days after request. Within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the reasons, the employee may request an informal hearing before the Board concerning said reasons. Said hearing to be held within thirty (30) days after receipt of the request therefore.

ARTIXLE X

EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

A. Principals and supervisors shall keep employees informed as to whether or not the kind of service they are rendering is satisfactory in terms of the standards of the school district. Written evaluation reports are to be sent to the employees by the supervisors with copies forwarded to the Superintendent.

B. Evaluation reports should include strengths, weaknesses, and specific suggestions for improvement.

C. Written evaluation shall be given to the employers for his/her signature and comments prior to submission of the reports to the Superintendent.

ARTICLE XI

SICK LEAVE

A. Definition of Sick Leave - Sick leave is hereby defined to mean the absence from duty of any person because of physical disability, illness or injury, or quarantine or exclusion from work by medical authorities.

B. Sick Leave Allowable - All persons who are steadily employed full time by the Board of Education shall be allowed sick leave with full pay as follows:

10 month term - 10 days

11 month term - 11 days

12 month term - 12 days

C. Accumulated Sick Leave - Allowable sick leave not utilized in any year shall be cumulative to be used for additional sick leave in subsequent years.

D. In case of sick leave claim, the Superintendent of Schools may require a physician's certificate to be filed with his office in order to obtain sick leave.

E. Workers' Compensation - Workers' Compensation awards shall be deducted from the regular salary of the employee for the days's absence covered under the Workers' Compensation Act. The time lost from employment under the Workers' Compensation Act shall not be deducted from the days permitted for regular sick leave allowance.

ARTICLE XII

PERSONAL LEAVE

A. The Board of Education shall grant upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools leave per school year (not to be accumulated) to any regularly employed person for the following emergencies or conditions.

1. Death in immediate family - up to five (5) days (immediate family - mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, children, husband, wife, brother, sister, or any relative who has lived within the same household for a period of over two (2) years). Additional emergencies will be judged by the Superintendent by request if the total of five (5) days for bereavement has been used.

2. Personal Business - Up to three (3) days (personal business - personal business that cannot be conducted outside the normal work day).

NOTE: Employees shall not be granted personal leave days on a day immediately before or after a holiday, vacation period or during the first or last week of the school year.

3. The Superintendent of Schools may grant additional personal leave without pay.

4. Paternity Leave - one (1) day - Birth of a child.

5. Visitation Leave - one (1) day per year may be granted by the Superintendent of Schools to any personnel, for school visitation and observation in other school systems. In each case a written report shall be submitted to the principal who will forward it to the Superintendent. Arrangements for such visitation shall be made by the building principal, with the approval of the Superintendent.

ARTICLE XIII

MATERNITY LEAVE

Maternity leave shall be as prescribed by law.

ARTICLE XIV

WORK RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

A. The Board agrees to pay one hundred and fifty (\$150.00) dollars maximum per year toward tuition and other expenses incurred in connection with course work taken in a recognized program with prior approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

B. Verification of expenses and tuition shall be submitted with a voucher for payment.

ARTICLE XV

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

A. The Board will be informed only through the Superintendent in any matter requiring its decision. Any employee or employee group should communicate through the proper channels of authority. When the matter requires Board action it shall be directed through proper channels to the Board of Education.

B. It is agreed by both parties that the negotiations will be conducted without use of pressure tactics. The parties also agree, during the period of negotiations, that the only publicity accorded the negotiations by the parties will consist of a joint press release or, in the event the parties are unable to agree upon wording, a joint press release stating that "no progress has been made".

C. If any provisions of this Agreement or any application of this Agreement to any employee or group of employees is held to be contrary to law, then such provisions or application shall not be deemed valid and subsisting, except to the extent permitted by law, but all other provisions or applications shall continue in full force and effect.

D. Any individual contract between the Board and an individual employee, heretofore executed shall be subject to and consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. If an individual contract contains any language inconsistent with this Agreement, this Agreement, during its duration shall be controlling.

E. It is understood by all parties that under the ruling of the Courts of New Jersey and the State Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education is forbidden to waive any rights, responsibilities, obligations or powers granted it by law.

F. There shall be no discrimination in practices and procedures of the school system in hiring, training, assignments, promotions, transfer or discipline of employees on basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, domicile, marital status, or any Association activities.

G. Whenever any notice is required to be given by either party of this Agreement to the other pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, either party shall do so in writing with signed receipt of delivery, at the following addresses:

1. If by the Association to the Board:

2022 Good Intent Road
Deptford, New Jersey 08096

2. If by Board to the Association:

Mrs. Bennie Davis
President
Deptford Bus Drivers Association
11 Shady Lane
Westville, New Jersey 08093

H. During the term of this Agreement there shall be no strikes, sick-outs or other similar concerted activity.

ARTICLE XVI

LIAISON

A. The Association representative may meet with the Superintendent at least once every calendar quarter during the school year to review and discuss current problems and practices of mutual interest and the administration of this Agreement. Neither the Superintendent nor the Board shall be required to engage in collective negotiations during these meetings.

ARTICLE XVII
PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES

A. Employees shall not be required to work under unsafe or hazardous conditions or to perform tasks which endanger their health, safety or well-being. However, the Board or the Board's designee shall solely determine whether or not an unsafe or hazardous condition or task which endangers health exists.

B. An employee may use reasonable force as is necessary to protect himself from attack, to protect another person or property, to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others, or to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of a pupil in the absence of a certified person.

C. If an employee is out of work due to an occupational accident or disease for less than seven (7) days, the Board shall pay the employee's salary without charging the time to sick leave.

1. The Board reserves the right to delay payment pending investigation and required medical examinations.

2. The employee shall fully cooperate in processing of the claim through worker's compensation.

ARTICLE XVIII

PERSONAL FREEDOM

A. The personal life of an employee is not an appropriate concern or attention of the Board except as it may directly prevent the employee from performing properly his assigned functions during the work day.

B. Employees shall be entitled to full rights of citizenship, and no religious or political activities of any employee or the lack thereof shall be grounds for any discipline or discrimination with respect to the employment of such employee providing said activities do not violate any local, state or federal law.

ARTICLE XIX

DEDUCTION FROM SALARY

A. Association Payroll Dues Deduction

1. The Board agrees to deduct from the salaries of its employees dues for the Deptford Transportation Association, the New Jersey Education or the National Education Association or any one or any combination of such Associations as said employees individually and voluntarily authorize the Board to deduct. Such deductions shall be made in compliance with Chapter 233 N. J. Public Laws of 1969 (NJSA 52:14-15.9e) and under rules established by the State Department of Education. Said monies together with current records of any person as may from time to time be designated by the Deptford Transportation Association by the 15th of each month following the monthly pay period in which deductions were made. The person designated shall disburse such monies to the appropriate association or associations.

2. Each of the associations named above shall certify to the Board, in writing, the current rate of its membership dues. Any association which shall change the rate of its membership dues shall give the Board written notice prior to the effective date of such change.

B. Local, State and National Services

The Board agrees to deduct from employees' salaries money for local, state and/or national association services and programs as said employees individually and voluntarily authorize the Board to deduct and to transmit the monies promptly to such association or associations. Any employee may have such deductions discontinued at any time upon sixty (60) days' written notice to the Board and the appropriate association.

ARTICLE XX

AGREEMENT

It is agreed between the Board of Education of Deptford Township in the County of Gloucester, party of the first part, and the Deptford Township Bus Drivers' Association, party of the second part, that the content of this Agreement shall be effective from July 1, 1979 to June 30, 1982.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals this 14th day of July , 1981.

DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP

For the Board of Education:

Catherine M. Park
Donald X. Loran - Secretary

DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP

For the Bus Drivers' Association:

James J. Davis - Pres
Joanna Taylor - Sec